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Control: 1245
Rec'd: FEBRUARY 3, 1959

9:24 AM

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1534, FEBRUARY 3, 2 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1534, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON PRIORITY 298,
PARIS 271, BONN 194, BERLIN 107

PARIS FOR USRO.

GERMAN AMB KROLL INFORMS ME HE YESTERDAY HAD TWO HOUR
CONVERSATION WITH KHRUSHCHEV ENTIRELY AT LATTER'S INITIATIVE.
KHRUSHCHEV BEGAN BY MAKING REFERENCE TO BANTERING CONVERSATION
THEY HAD HAD AT INDIAN RECEPTION AND SAID HE THOUGHT MORE
SERIOUS CONVERSATION WOULD BE USEFUL. HE OUTLINED STANDARD
SOV POSITION ON BERLIN AND GERMAN PROBLEM IN GENERAL.
ACCORDING TO KROLL FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL HIGHLIGHTS:

KHRUSHCHEV REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT SOV BERLIN PROPOSAL
WAS NOT ULTIMATUM AND THAT THEY WERE READY TO EXAMINE COUNTER-
PROPOSALS. THEY COULD NOT HOWEVER LEAVE THIS QUESTION
HANGING. HE MADE CLEAR THEY DID NOT INSIST UPON DIPLOMATIC
RECOGNITION OF GDR BUT INDICATED SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT OR
ARRANGEMENT WITH GDR WOULD BE NECESSARY.

ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION KHRUSHCHEV SAID THEY WOULD NEVER
AGREE TO SETTLING THIS MATTER ON A FOUR POWER BASIS EVEN IF
WE WAITED A HUNDRED YEARS AND THAT GERMANS THEMSELVES SHOULD
GET TOGETHER ON IT. HE SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY GERMANS
MIGHT NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH ULBRICHT WHO WAS AN OLD-LINE
COMMUNIST BUT SUGGESTED THEY SHOULD TALK TO GROTEWOHL.
KHRUSHCHEV ADMITTED THAT BERLIN QUESTION WAS LINKED WITH GERMAN
PROBLEM AS A WHOLE BUT SAID FIRST PRIORITY WAS QUESTION

OF BERLIN

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OF BERLIN AND THEN OF PEACE TREATY. HE INDICATED CLEARLY THAT IF NO AGREEMENT WERE REACHED ON THESE TWO PROBLEMS SOVIETS WOULD PROCEED WITH THEIR NHCCBVER (#) OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO EAST GERMANS AND THEY WOULD ORGANIZE A CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE A PEACE TREATY. WHEN KROLL INQUIRED WHO WOULD UNGCINBJS (#) GERMANY KHRUSHCHEV SAID THEY NATURALLY WOULD PREFER BOTH GERMANS BUT WOULD PROCEED WITH EAST GERMANY ALONE IF NECESSARY..

KHRUSHCHEV SAID SOV UNION WAS NOT AFRAID OF GERMANY SO FAR AS IT WAS CONCERNED BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT WEST GERMANY MIGHT START A WAR IN WHICH SOV UNION WOULD BECOME INVOLVED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF ATOMIC ARMING OF GERMANY BUT DID SAY SOV UNION WAS STILL INTERESTED IN DISARMAMENT AND WAS PREPARING NEW DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. HE SAID WESTERN SUGGESTIONS FOR A GUARANTEE TO SOV UNION WERE RIDICULOUS AND THEY COULD ONLY LAUGH AT THEM.

KROLL POINTED OUT IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT WEST GERMANY WOULD NEVER ACCEPT SOV PEACE TREATY PROPOSALS OR ANY OTHER TREATY THAT WAS NOT BASED ON EQUALITY AND SECURITY OF GERMANY.

KHRUSHCHEV GAVE NO SPECIFIC INDICATION AS TO WHETHER SOV UNION WOULD ATTEND A CONFERENCE ON GERMANY AS A WHOLE ALTHOUGH KROLL THINKS IT LIKELY THEY WOULD DO SO IF THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF REUNIFICATION.

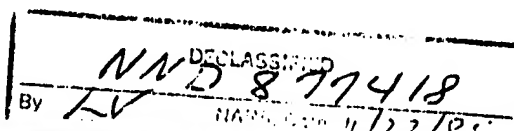
KHRUSHCHEV MADE A BACKHANDED APOLOGY FOR HIS REMARKS ABOUT ADENAUER AND ASKED KROLL TO INFORM CHANCELLOR THAT HIS REMARKS WERE NOT INTENDED TO BE PERSONAL, POINTING OUT THAT EACH OF THEM HAD ATTACKED THE OTHER. BOTH KROLL AND I THINK IT LIKELY THAT THIS WAS ONE OF CHIEF REASONS WHY KHRUSHCHEV ARRANGED INTERVIEW, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR.

IN DISCUSSING PARTY CONGRESS KHRUSHCHEV STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF SOV GOAL OF OVERTAKING ECONOMICALLY THE WEST INCLUDING UNITED STATES AND SAID IF THIS WERE NOT ACCOMPLISHED HIS WHOLE LIFE'S WORK WOULD HAVE LOST ITS MEANING.

WHEN KROLL REMARKED THAT GERMAN GOVT HAD STILL NOT HAD
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DEFINITIVE REPLY TO ITS NOTE OF JAN 5 KHRUSHCHEV SEEMED SURPRISED AND SAID TO ZORIN, WHO WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, THAT THEY SHOULD REPLY AT ONCE. KROLL TELLS ME THAT WHEN HE RECEIVED SOV NOTE OF JAN 10 GROMYKO HAD TOLD HIM IN REPLY TO HIS QUESTION THAT THIS WAS A FIRST APPRECIATION AND NOT THE OFFICIAL REPLY TO GERMAN NOTE. KROLL SAID THAT WESTERN POWERS WERE NOW CONCERTING THEIR POSITION AND THAT GERMANY WOULD ACT ONLY IN CONCERT WITH THEM ON THESE PROBLEMS.

KROLL STATES HE IS INFORMING BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBS OF THIS CONVERSATION BUT ASKED ME NOT TO DISCUSS IT WITH ANYONE ELSE.

THOMPSON

MJT/23

(#) AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW

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